

Patent Claims:

1. Three-dimensional, flexible, repeatedly and durably formable knitted fabric which consists of a single-strand polymer thread coarsely knitted together with at least one other fiber; this fiber is knitted on a flat knitting machine using right stitches (right/right) with at least two or more needle beds and covers a sequence of rows of right stitches which are shifted relative to each other in adjacent rows.
2. Knitted fabric as per Claim 1, which is characterized by the fact that the polymer-containing carrier fiber is made of polyamide or polyester yarn with a strength of at least 50 DEN, and ideally of 100 DEN.
3. Knitted fabric as per Claim 1 or 2, which is characterized by the fact that the other threads are of viscose yarn or another natural or synthetic yarn.
4. Knitted fabric as per Claim 3, which is characterized by the fact that the viscose yarn is multi-thread.
5. Knitted fabric as per Claim 3 or 4, which is characterized by the fact that the viscose yarn is coated.
6. Knitted fabric as per one of the above-listed Claims with a permanent form, the fabric being characterized by the fact that ‘wire’ or ‘melt yarn’ which hardens upon being heat-treated is included in the fabric.
7. Procedure for producing a three-dimensional, flexible, repeatedly and durably formable knitted fabric on a flat knitting machine, whereby a coarsely knitted single-strand polymer fiber is right/right-knitted together with other fibers on at least two needle beds; the needle beds are shifted relative to one another after knitting each row.

8. Procedure as per Claim 7, which is characterized by the fact that the needle beds are shifted by either one (ideally) or a maximum of two stitches relative to each other.
9. Procedure as per Claim 8, which is characterized by the fact that one needle bed remains stationary and the other is shifted first to the right and then to the left, this being repeated over a sequence of rows.
10. Procedure as per one of the Claims 7 to 9, which is characterized by the fact that the knitted fabric is knitted on needle beds with 7 stitches per inch or even looser.
11. Procedure as per one of the Claims 7 to 10, which is characterized by the fact that a loose fiber tension of less than 5 gr, in particular of between 1.5 and 4 gr, is used.
12. Procedure as per one of the Claims 7 to 11, which is characterized by the fact that the knitted fabric, once knit, can be deformed into a three-dimensional form by pulling it manually or by pulling it over a solid shape.
13. Procedure as per Claim 12, which is characterized by the fact that the three-dimensional form required is fixed with latex, Vlieseline or a similar material.
14. Use of a knitted fabric as per one of the Claims 1 to 6 or of a procedure as per one of the Claims 7 to 13 for the production of items of clothing, in particular of hats, caps and shoes.
15. Use of a knitted fabric as per one of the Claims 1 to 6 or of a procedure as per one of the Claims 7 to 13 for producing decorative elements, particularly involving the use of a thermoformable thread, e.g., melt fiber.
16. Use of a knitted fabric as per one of the Claims 1 to 6 or of a procedure as per one of the Claims 7 to 13 for producing shaped parts by fixing the three-dimensional form either by thermofixing and/or by subsequent setting of the formed knitted fabric into a plastic matrix.